



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
January 2012

Psychology (Specification A) PSYA4

Unit 4 Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

Friday 27 January 2012 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is PSYA4.
- In **Section A**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose. Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.
- In **Section B**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose. Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.
- In **Section C**, you should answer **all** questions.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 83.
- In **Section A** and in **Section B**, you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

There are no questions printed on this page

Section A Psychopathology

Choose **one** topic from **Section A**. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 24 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.

Topic: Schizophrenia

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|---|---|--|
| 0 | 1 | Discuss issues associated with the classification and/or diagnosis of schizophrenia.
<i>(8 marks + 16 marks)</i> |
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Topic: Depression

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| 0 | 2 | Outline two psychological explanations of depression.
<i>(8 marks)</i> |
| 0 | 3 | Evaluate psychological explanations of depression.
<i>(16 marks)</i> |
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Topic: Phobic Disorders

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| 0 | 4 | Outline and evaluate two or more therapies for phobic disorders. <i>(8 marks + 16 marks)</i> |
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Topic: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

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| 0 | 5 | Outline and evaluate two or more therapies for obsessive compulsive disorder.
<i>(8 marks + 16 marks)</i> |
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Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

Section B Psychology in Action

Choose **one** topic from **Section B**. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 24 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.

Topic: Media Psychology

- 0 6** Outline the Elaboration Likelihood model of persuasion. Explain how a mobile phone company might use knowledge of this model in a campaign to market a new phone. *(4 marks + 6 marks)*
- 0 7** Researchers conducted a study of media influences on anti-social behaviour. The researchers asked child participants to name their favourite TV programmes. Fifteen years later, the researchers assessed the same participants for levels of anti-social behaviour. Two measures of adult anti-social behaviour were obtained for each participant.
- Measure A:** The researchers interviewed a person who knew the participant well and asked them about the participant's behaviour.
- Measure B:** The researchers studied official records of the participant's criminal convictions.
- The researchers concluded that there was a link between watching violent TV programmes as a child and levels of adult aggression.
- Other than ethical issues, explain **two** methodological problems involved in the study described above. *(4 marks)*
- 0 8** Outline and evaluate research into celebrity stalking. *(4 marks + 6 marks)*

Topic: The Psychology of Addictive Behaviour

- 0 9** Outline and evaluate the biological approach to explaining smoking behaviour. *(4 marks + 4 marks)*
- 1 0** Andy is in his first year at university. He is a shy young man who lacks confidence in himself and worries about meeting new people. Since starting university, Andy has preferred to stay in his room, playing strategy games on the internet with his old school friends. Andy often plays all night which means that he sleeps in and misses his lectures. He is finding his course difficult and fears that he may fail his exams or drop out.
- Use your knowledge of risk factors in the development of addiction to explain Andy's addiction to the internet. *(6 marks)*
- 1 1** Outline and evaluate **one** psychological intervention aimed at reducing addictive behaviour. *(4 marks + 6 marks)*
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Topic: Anomalistic Psychology

Jo and Frankie are watching a television programme about paranormal action. A stage performer is apparently using the power of his mind to influence dice thrown by another person. The person rolls a pair of dice three times and rolls a double six each time. Jo gets very excited.

Jo shouts: "Wow! That is amazing. I think I could train myself to use the power of my mind to make things happen."

Frankie replies: "Calm down. It's just a coincidence. Nobody can use the power of their mind to influence events like that."

- 1 2** Frankie thinks that it is just a coincidence. Jo does not agree.
- Explain what is meant by coincidence in this context. *(2 marks)*
- 1 3** Jo and Frankie interpret the same experience differently. Use your knowledge of personality factors to explain why people interpret anomalous experiences differently. *(4 marks)*
- 1 4** Outline and evaluate the Ganzfeld technique as a way of investigating ESP. *(4 marks + 4 marks)*
- 1 5** Discuss what research into exceptional experience has shown us about psychic mediumship. *(4 marks + 6 marks)*

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C Psychological Research and Scientific Method

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This topic carries 35 marks.

Topic: Psychological Research and Scientific Method

Two psychologists investigated the relationship between age and recall of medical advice. Previous research had shown that recall of medical advice tended to be poorer in older patients. The study was conducted at a doctor's surgery and involved a sample of 30 patients aged between 18 and 78 years. They all saw the same doctor, who made notes of the advice that she gave during the consultation.

One of the psychologists interviewed each of the patients individually, immediately after they had seen the doctor. The psychologist asked each patient a set of questions about what the doctor had said about their diagnosis and treatment. The patients' responses were recorded and then typed out. Working independently the psychologists compared each typed account with the doctor's written notes in order to rate the accuracy of the accounts on a scale of 1–10. A high rating indicated that the patient's recall was very accurate and a low rating indicated that the patient's recall was very inaccurate.

- 1 | 6** The psychologists decided to propose a directional hypothesis. Why was a directional hypothesis appropriate in this case? *(1 mark)*
- 1 | 7** Write a suitable directional hypothesis for this investigation. *(3 marks)*
- 1 | 8** The psychologists were careful to consider the issue of reliability during the study. What is meant by reliability? *(1 mark)*
- 1 | 9** Explain how the psychologists might have assessed the reliability of their ratings. *(3 marks)*
- 2 | 0** This study collected both qualitative and quantitative data. From the description of the study above, identify the qualitative data and the quantitative data. *(2 marks)*

The psychologists used Spearman's rho to analyse the data from their investigation. They chose to use the 0.05 level of significance. The result gave a correlation coefficient of -0.52 .

2 1 Give **two** reasons why the psychologists used Spearman's rho to analyse the data. (2 marks)

2 2 Using **Table 1** below, state whether the result is significant or not significant and explain why. (2 marks)

Table 1: Extract from a table of critical values of Spearman's rho (r_s)

Level of significance for a one-tailed test		
	0.05	0.01
Level of significance for a two-tailed test		
	0.10	0.02
N=29	0.312	0.433
30	0.306	0.425
31	0.301	0.418

Calculated r_s must equal or exceed the table (critical) value for significance at the level shown.

2 3 Explain what is meant by a Type 1 error. (2 marks)

2 4 Use the information in **Table 1** above to explain why the psychologists did not think that they had made a Type 1 error in this case. (3 marks)

Section C continues on the next page

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The psychologists then wanted to see whether the use of diagrams in medical consultations would affect recall of medical information.

In a laboratory experiment involving a medical consultation role-play, participants were randomly allocated to one of two conditions. In Condition A, a doctor used diagrams to present to each participant a series of facts about high blood pressure. In Condition B, the same doctor presented the same series of facts about high blood pressure to each participant but without the use of diagrams.

At the end of the consultation, participants were tested on their recall of facts about high blood pressure. Each participant was given a score out of ten for the number of facts recalled.

2	5
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In this case, the psychologists decided to use a laboratory experiment rather than a field experiment. Discuss advantages of carrying out this experiment in a laboratory.

(4 marks)

2	6
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Identify an appropriate statistical test that the psychologists could use to analyse the data from the follow-up study. Give **one** reason why this test is appropriate. *(2 marks)*

2	7
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Research has shown that music can affect the ability to concentrate. Design an experiment that could be carried out in a classroom to test the effects of two different kinds of music on a task requiring concentration (eg word search).

You **must** use a repeated measures design.

In your answer you should:

- fully operationalise the independent and dependent variables
- provide details of how you would control extraneous variables
- describe the procedure that you would use. You should provide sufficient detail for the study to be carried out.

(10 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS